

Appendix C:

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON RECREATION AREA MASTER PLAN
Draft ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON RECREATION AREA AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN

Habitat Assessment

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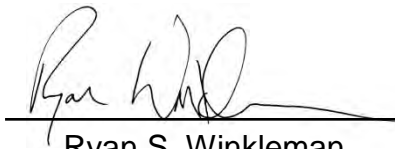
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EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON RECREATION AREA AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY OF WILLOWBROOK, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Habitat Assessment

The undersigned certify that the statements furnished in this report and exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions to the best of our knowledge and beliefs.



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May 2014

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation intends to amend the State Master Plan for the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area to include an adjacent abandoned community called Ujima Village.

RBF Consulting prepared this habitat assessment in April 2014 to assess existing baseline conditions at the project site. The site is located in a recreational park surrounded by extensive urbanization. Based on the results of this habitat assessment, it was determined that the project site has a low potential to support two special-status bat species, the western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) and the pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*). All other special-status plant and wildlife species are presumed absent from the site and none were observed onsite during the habitat assessment. The project site contains no natural plant communities, and has been developed and landscaped with non-native, ornamental vegetation.

The project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat and there are no features within the project site that could be considered jurisdictional under the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CWA	Clean Water Act
F	Fahrenheit
GIS	Geographic Information System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
RBF	RBF Consulting
Regional Board	Regional Water Quality Control Board
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Section 1 Introduction

This report contains the findings of RBF Consulting's (RBF) habitat assessment for the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area and Ujima Village Master Plan (project site or project), located in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, Los Angeles County, California. The habitat assessment was conducted by RBF biologists Travis J. McGill and Ryan Winkleman on April 29, 2014 to evaluate the suitability of the habitat on the project site to support sensitive habitats and/or species identified by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and other electronic databases as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

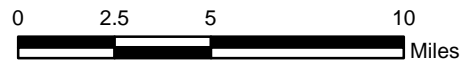
The project site is generally located south of Interstate 105 and east of Interstate 110 in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, Los Angeles County, California (Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The project site is located in Sections 8 and 9 of Township 3 South, Range 13 West of the Inglewood quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series (Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the project site is east of South Avalon Boulevard, south of 120th Street, west of South Central Avenue, and north of El Segundo Boulevard (Exhibit 3, *Project Site*).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Department of Parks and Recreation intends to develop an Amendment to the State Master Plan for the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area that reflects a future expanded area that includes the adjoining Ujima Village property. The existing Recreation Area is approximately 104-acres and is developed as a Community Regional facility with numerous amenities including two restrooms, picnic shelters, group picnic shelters, soccer fields, fitness par course, lakes, a 2-12 year old play area, picnic tables, barbecues, drinking fountains, security lighting, and on-site lighted parking. The addition of the Ujima Village property will expand the Recreation Area by roughly 16-acres.



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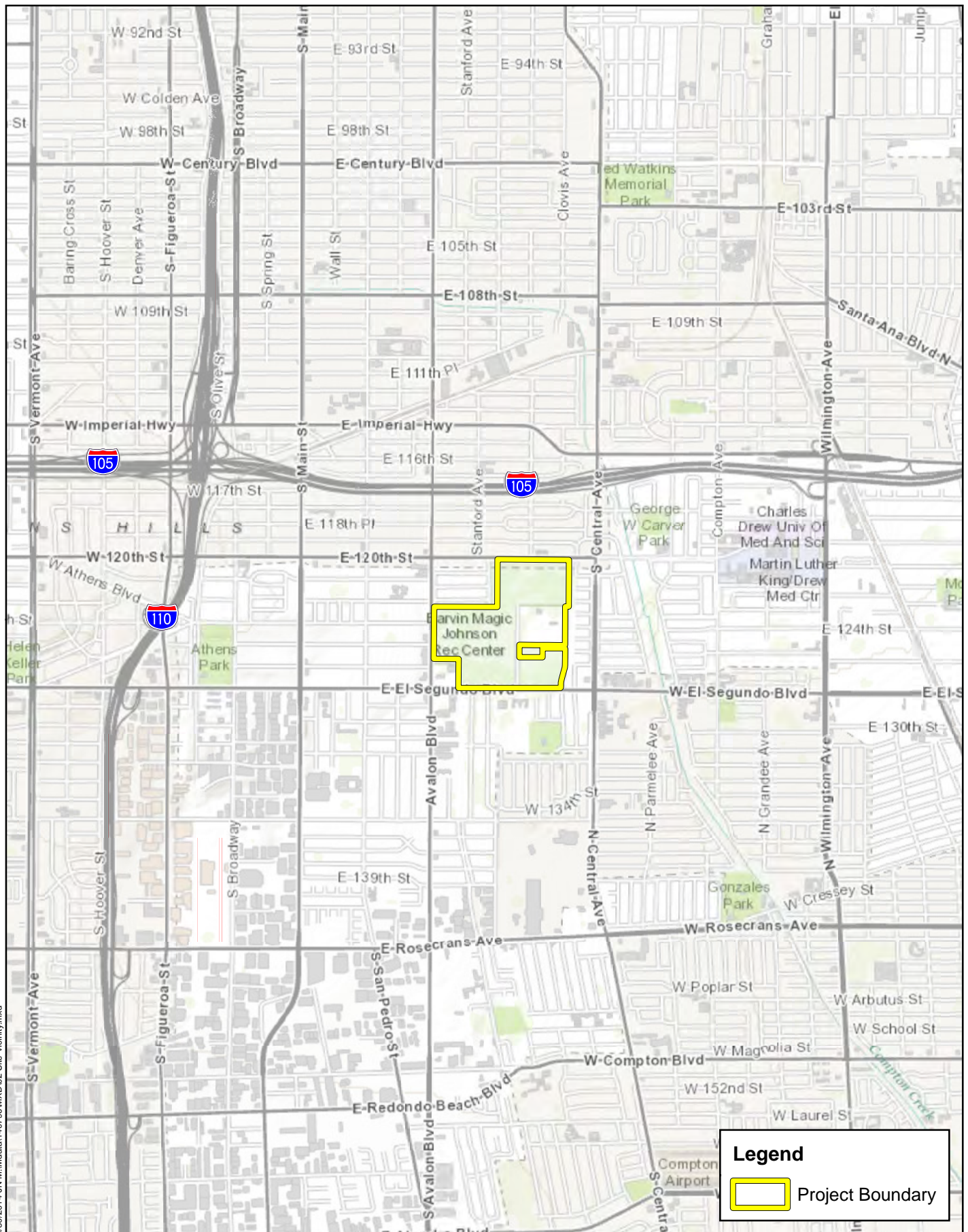


Source: ESRI Relief Map, National Highway Planning Network

EARVIN 'MAGIC' JOHNSON AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN
HABITAT ASSESSMENT

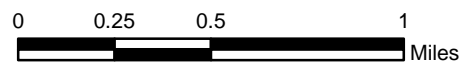
Regional Vicinity Map

4/30/2014 J:\M:\Mdata\140756\MXD\02 Site Vicinity.mxd

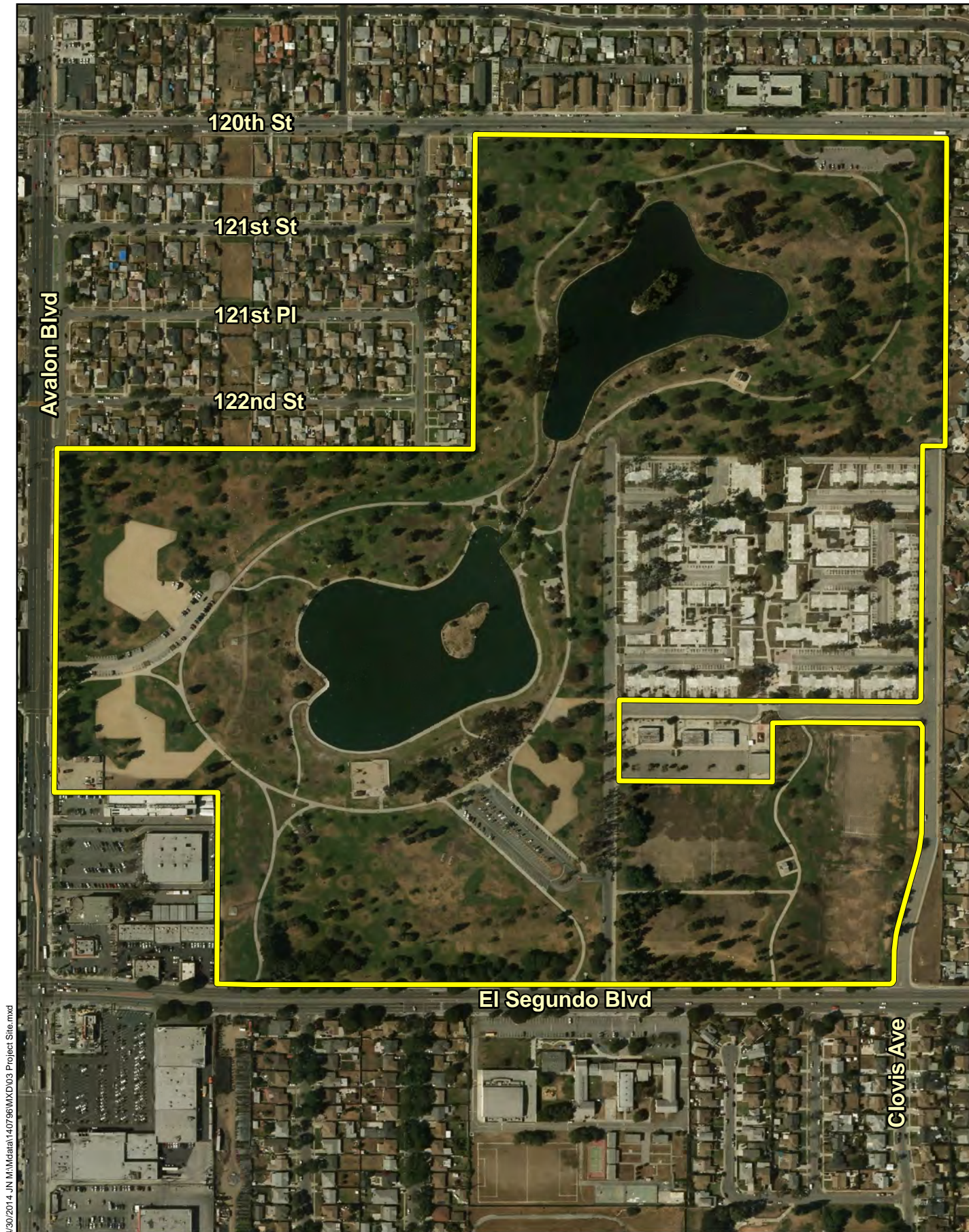


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HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Site Vicinity Map



Source: ESRI World Topographic Map



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HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Project Site Map



Section 2 Methodology

A literature review and records search was conducted to determine which sensitive biological resources have the potential to occur on the project site or within the general vicinity. In addition, a general habitat assessment of the project site was conducted. The field survey provided information on the existing conditions of the site and the potential for sensitive biological resources to occur.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Prior to conducting the field visit, a thorough literature review and records search was conducted for sensitive biological resources potentially occurring on or within the vicinity of the project site. Previously recorded occurrences of special status plant and wildlife species and their proximity to the project site were determined through a query of the CNDDDB, the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *Electronic Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California*, Calflora Database, compendia of special-status species published by CDFW, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species listings.

Literature detailing biological resources previously observed near the project site and historical land uses were reviewed to understand the extent of disturbances to the habitats on-site. Standard field guides and texts on sensitive and non-sensitive biological resources were reviewed for habitat requirements, as well as the following resources:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey; and
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species.

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring on the project site. Additional recorded occurrences of these species found on or near the project site were derived from database queries. The CNDDDB ArcGIS database was used, together with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest occurrence and determine the distance from the project site.

2.2 HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

RBF biologists Travis J. McGill and Ryan Winkleman inventoried and evaluated the condition of the habitat on the project site on April 29, 2014. Plant communities identified by signature on aerial photographs during the literature review were ground-truthed by walking meandering transects through the plant communities and along boundaries between plant communities. The plant communities were evaluated for their potential to support sensitive plant and wildlife species, and in addition the biologists paid attention to indicators of

riparian/riverine habitat and corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

All plant and wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each plant community, were recorded. Detections of animal species were made by scat, trails, tracks, burrows, nests, and visual and aural observation. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, presence of indicator species, condition of the plant communities, hydrology, and evidence of human use of the site were noted. The plant communities were classified in accordance with CDFW (2003) and Holland (1986), delineated on an aerial photograph, and then digitized into GIS Arcview. The Arcview application was used to compute the area of each plant community in acres.

Section 3 Existing Conditions

3.1 LOCAL CLIMATE

The region has a mild, year-round Mediterranean Climate or semi-arid climate, with warm, sunny, dry summers and cool, rainy winters. Due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, temperatures in the Willowbrook area are moderate throughout the year, with average highs of 75° Fahrenheit (F) in August and September and average lows of 49°F in December and January. Willowbrook receives, on average, approximately 13 inches of rainfall each year, with February typically getting the most rainfall of any month and July getting the least. Weather conditions during the surveys included temperatures in the mid to high 60s°F and winds were minimal with a few light clouds overhead.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The project site is relatively flat with no significant areas of topographic relief. The project site ranges in elevation from 120 to 100 feet above sea level, gently sloping from southwest to northeast. According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey no data is available for on-site and adjoining soils. Due to the lack of available data from the Soil Survey, and the Custom Soil Resource Report, the potential of hydric soils to exist within the project site was not able to be determined.

3.3 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project site is located in an urban area that has been entirely developed, converting natural habitats into transportation, residential, commercial, religious, and educational land uses. Residential communities are present in all directions, with shopping centers located to the west, south, and east. Several churches are located to the west and southwest, and the Los Angeles Adventist Academy and Centennial High School are located to the south and southeast, respectively. There are no open spaces or undeveloped, natural areas immediately surrounding the project site or in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

Section 4 Discussion

4.1 SITE CONDITIONS

The project site is predominantly used as a recreational park in an urban setting. Within the park are two artificially created ponds joined by a small concrete lined drainage with walking paths surrounding both ponds that connect into adjacent parking lots. Each pond has a small island in it, inaccessible to humans but used by wildlife, particularly waterfowl. On the east side of the project site is an area that was formerly a residential community called Ujima Village. At the time of the habitat assessment the community had been demolished, with only the cement foundations and trees remaining. South of the community is a series of abandoned trailers that formerly belonged to Honey's Little Angels Learning daycare center, along with several soccer fields. While the daycare trailers are excluded from the project site, the adjacent soccer fields are included.

4.2 VEGETATION

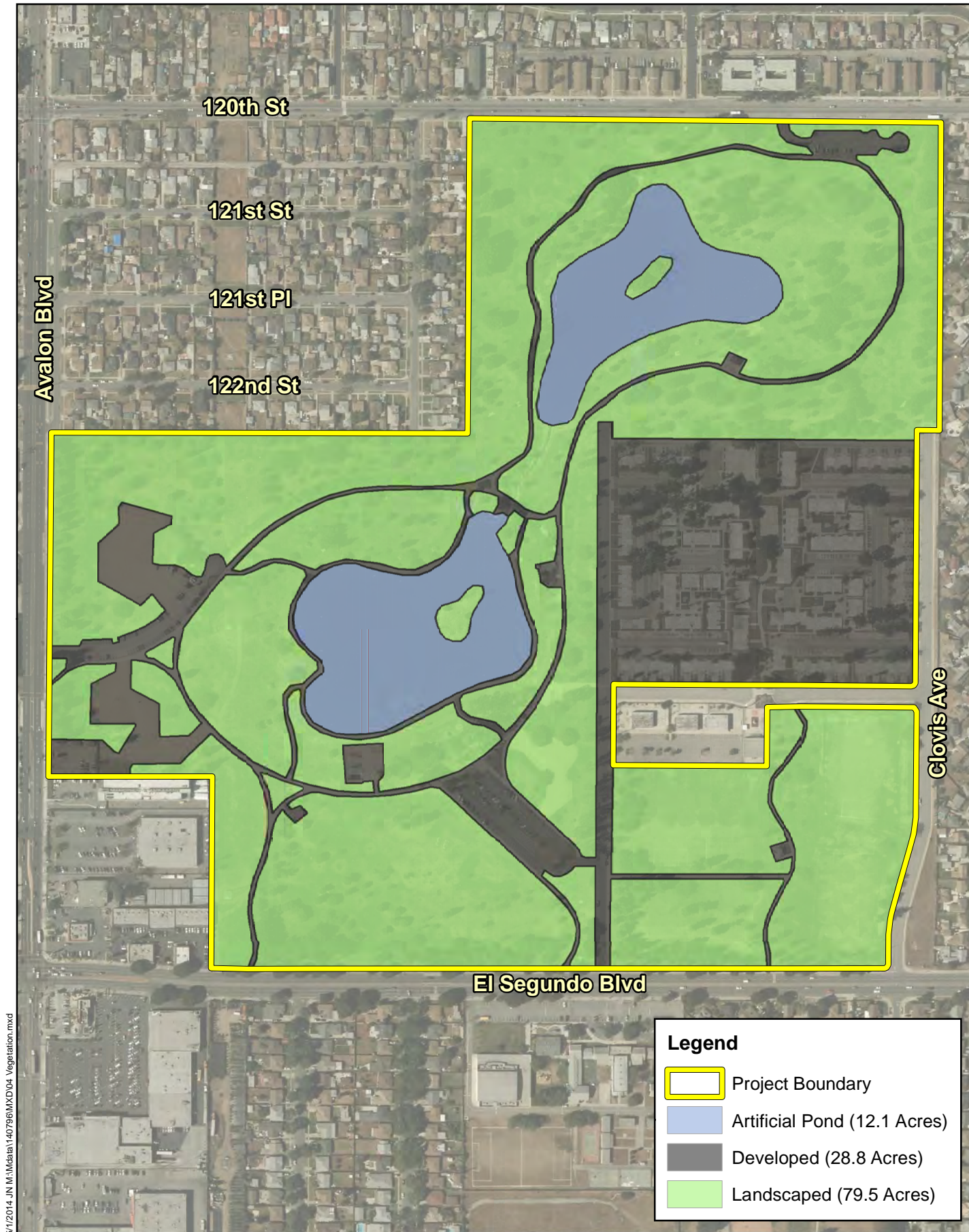
Three communities were observed within the boundaries of the project site during the habitat assessment (Exhibit 4, *Vegetation*): landscaped, artificial pond, and developed. These communities are described in further detail below.

4.2.1 Landscaped

Most of the project site consists of landscaped areas dominated by landscaped grass and ornamental/planted vegetation. Ground cover primarily consists of landscaped grass, with some disturbed areas consisting of ruderal/weedy plant species such as cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), and stork's-bill (*Erodium* sp.) have established. A high number of trees has been planted throughout the site, with some of the more common species being eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), tipu tree (*Tipuana tipu*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Additionally, the island in the northern pond has a concentration of Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

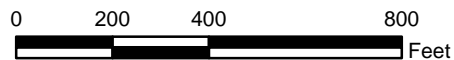
4.2.2 Artificial Pond

Two artificially created ponds are located within the recreation area. These are connected by a small concrete lined drainage. There are small islands that are impassible to pedestrians in the middle of each pond that are used by waterfowl.



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EARVIN 'MAGIC' JOHNSON AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN
HABITAT ASSESSMENT



Source: Eagle Aerial 2013

Vegetation Map

Exhibit 4

4.2.3 Developed

The developed portions of the project site consist of the cement paths (walking trails) throughout the recreation area, parking lots, paved roads (i.e. Wadsworth Avenue and East 126th Street), and Ujima Village.

4.3 WILDLIFE

Plant communities provide food sources, along with foraging, nesting and denning sites, cover, and protection from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a discussion of those wildlife species observed, expected, or not expected to occur on-site. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather condition in which the survey was conducted. Wildlife observations were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows and actual sightings of animals.

4.3.1 Amphibians

No amphibian species were visually observed during the habitat assessment. On-site aquatic habitat, namely the two ponds, is most conducive to the presence of American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeiana*). The extensive surrounding urbanization is not typically an indication of native amphibian presence, though it is possible, but unlikely, that Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) could potentially occur.

4.3.2 Reptiles

A group of red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) was observed on the bank of one of the islands during the habitat assessment, but no other reptiles were found. The project site has the potential to provide suitable habitat for reptilian species that are adapted to human environments and disturbance. Other common reptile species that are most likely to occur on the project site include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), and painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*).

4.3.3 Avian

The plant communities found on the project site provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a variety of avian species. The project site has the potential to provide suitable habitat for migrant and resident avian species. Because a large number of bird species were observed during the habitat assessment, only the most common species are noted here. A full list of observed species is in Appendix C. The most common bird species detected within and surrounding the project site during the habitat assessment include Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus*

mexicanus), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), and cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).

4.3.4 Mammals

Fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) were observed during the habitat assessment in the trees throughout the project site. Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) is also expected to be on-site due to the detection of gopher holes. Due to the high level of disturbance through recreational use and surrounding urbanization the site is presumed not to support a large number of mammalian species. While not observed, California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) could also occur on-site.

4.4 NESTING BIRDS

On-site plant communities provide suitable foraging and cover habitat for year-round/seasonal avian residents, migrating songbirds, and raptors that occur in the area. Vegetation within and adjacent to the project site has the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for a number of avian species, in particular amongst the large number of trees on-site. The habitat assessment was conducted in mid-April, but only one occupied nest was observed, that of a Muscovy duck (*Cairina moschata*). Based on the amount of mallard ducklings and Canada geese goslings that were observed, it is likely that additional waterfowl nests are present on the islands within the two ponds.

4.5 MIGRATORY CORRIDORS AND LINKAGES

Habitat linkages provide links between larger undeveloped habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages, but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species but inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are significant features for dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

The project site is surrounded on all sides by urban development and does not provide a corridor between undisturbed areas. The two ponds within the park may provide valuable stopover resting habitat for migrating waterfowl and the numerous trees and lawn throughout the site may provide foraging habitat for migrating passerines (e.g. warblers and sparrows, respectively), but otherwise the site does not serve as a migratory corridor or linkage.

4.6 JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and bank under Fish and Wildlife Code Sections 1600 et seq., and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

During the habitat assessment, no drainage features or isolated wetland features were observed within the project site that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW. The proposed project will not result in any impacts to Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW jurisdictional areas.

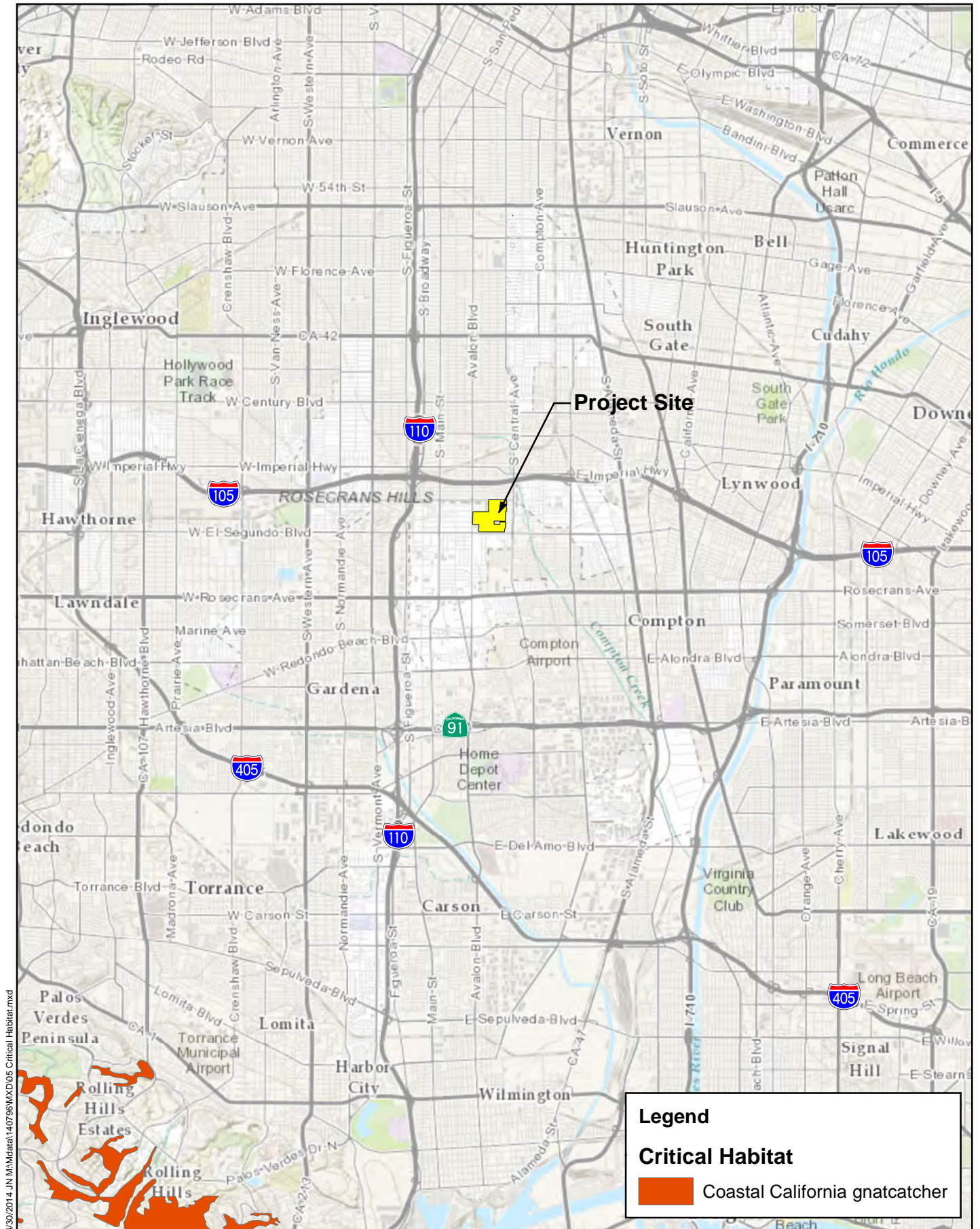
4.7 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The CNDDDB was queried for reported locations of listed and sensitive plant and wildlife species as well as sensitive natural plant communities within the Inglewood USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. A search of published records of these species was conducted within this quadrangle using the CNDDDB Rarefind 5 online software. The CNPS Electronic Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California supplied information regarding the distribution and habitats of vascular plants in the vicinity. The habitat assessment was used to assess the ability of the on-site plant communities to provide suitable habitat for relevant special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified seven sensitive plant species, eight sensitive wildlife species, and no sensitive habitats as having the potential to occur within the Inglewood quadrangle. Sensitive plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project boundaries based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Species determined to have the potential to occur within the general vicinity of the project site are presented in Appendix B, Sensitive Habitats and Potentially Occurring Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species. Appendix B summarizes conclusions from analysis and field surveys regarding the potential occurrence of listed and sensitive plant and wildlife species within the project site. Additionally, the project site is not currently located within any federally designated Critical Habitat (Exhibit 5, *Critical Habitat*).

4.7.1 Sensitive Plants

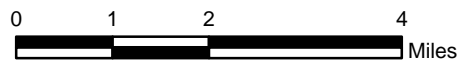
Seven special-status plant species have been recorded in the Inglewood quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Based on habitat requirements for specific species, availability and quality of



4/30/2014 J:\M:\Data\140756\MXD\05 Critical Habitat.mxd

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HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Critical Habitat Map



Source: ESRI World Topographic Map, USFWS Critical Habitat Portal

habitats needed by each sensitive plant species, and habitat assessment results it was determined that the project site does not contain suitable habitat to support any of the sensitive plant species since the project site has been landscaped/developed and does not have any connection to undisturbed native habitats.

4.7.2 Sensitive Wildlife

Eight special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the Inglewood quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Based on habitat requirements for specific species, availability and quality of habitats needed by each sensitive wildlife species, and habitat assessment results, it was determined that the project site has a low potential to support western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) and pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*). All other special-status species are presumed absent due to lack of suitable habitat.

4.7.3 Sensitive Plant Communities

The CNDDDB does not show any sensitive vegetation communities occurring within the Inglewood quadrangle.

Section 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The project site consists of a mostly open-space urban park and a demolished apartment complex. The site is surrounded on all sides by urbanization, including residential, commercial, religious, and educational developments. The site is largely composed of landscaped areas, with two artificial ponds and several parking lots and overflow lots.

No sensitive plant or wildlife species were observed on the project site during the habitat assessment and it was determined that the plant communities onsite do not have the potential to provide suitable habitat for any of the sensitive plant and wildlife species known to occur in the general area. However, it was determined that the project site has low potential to support two sensitive bat species, western mastiff bat and pocketed free-tailed bat. Additionally, no sensitive plant communities occur on the project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status.

Vegetation within and adjacent to the project site has the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for avian species. Construction activities should be conducted outside of the avian breeding season to avoid impacts to nesting birds. However, if construction will occur during the avian breeding season, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey should be conducted to ensure no birds are nesting on or within 300 feet of the project site.

Due to the isolated nature of the project site and lack of native habitats, focused sensitive plant and wildlife surveys are not recommended for the proposed project. Additionally, the project site does not contain any features that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and CDFW Code

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 of the Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). In order to protect migratory bird species, nesting bird clearance surveys will be required prior to any vegetation removal or development that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season (generally from February 1 - August 31, but can vary annually based upon seasonal weather conditions). The pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted within 7 days prior to any ground disturbing activities. This clearance survey will ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. As long as development does not cause direct take of a bird or egg(s) or disrupt nesting behaviors, immediate protections would not be required. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur.

If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities might have to be rerouted, a no-work buffer might have to be established around the nest, or construction may be delayed until the young have fledged. The size of the buffer shall be determined by the biologist in consultation with CDFW, and shall be based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, and expected types of disturbance. Typically these buffers range from 250 to 500 feet from the nest location.

It is recommended that a biological monitor be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area if an active nest is detected and to monitor the nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the qualified biologist has determined that young birds have successfully fledged, a monitoring report shall be prepared and submitted for review and approval prior to initiating construction activities within the buffer area. The monitoring report shall summarize the results of the nest monitoring, describe construction restrictions currently in place, and confirm that construction activities can proceed within the buffer area without jeopardizing the survival of the young birds. Construction within the designated buffer area shall not proceed until the written authorization is received by the applicant from CDFW. Consequently, if avian nesting behaviors are disrupted, such as nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort as a result of project construction, it would be considered “take” and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

Section 6 References

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (as California Department of Fish and Game). 2009. Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Developments on Rare and Endangered Plants and Plant Communities.
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- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Web Soil Survey*. (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>)

Appendix A Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Facing north from the southwestern corner of the project site. Much of the site consists of landscaped areas. The paved parking lot to the right is one of three on the northern, western, and southern site boundaries.



Photograph 2: Facing north from the southern end of the southern pond. The site has two large ponds.



Photograph 3: Facing north from the western boundary of the project site. In addition to paved parking lots, the site also has large overflow parking for each lot.



Photograph 4: Facing north from the center of the site. A small concrete lined drainage connects the two artificial ponds.



Photograph 5: Facing southeast from the northwest corner of the project site. Each of the two artificial ponds has an island. While the island in the southern pond is sparsely vegetated, the island in the northern pond is covered in Mexican fan palm.



Photograph 6: Facing south near the center of the site. The Ujima Village portion of the site consists only of cement foundations of former residential buildings.



Photograph 7: Facing east from Wadsworth Avenue into the demolished Ujima Village. The trailers in the background to the right are part of Honey's Little Angels daycare center and are not part of the project site.



Photograph 8: Facing south from the southeast corner of the project site. The southeastern portion of the project site consists of additional landscaped areas that are used for soccer fields.

Appendix B Sensitive Habitats and Potentially Occurring Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species

Suitable Habitats and Potentially Occurring Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Wildlife Species				
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	Fed: None CA: CSC	Occurs in dry, open areas such as grasslands, prairies, savannas, deserts, farmlands, golf courses and other urban areas	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The site lacks suitable burrows and other necessary elements for this species to occur.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	Fed: END CA: END	Occurs in riparian woodlands in southern California. Typically requires large areas of willow thickets in broad valleys, canyon bottoms, or around ponds and lakes. These areas typically have standing or running water, or are at least moist.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The site does not contain the large areas of riparian forest that this species requires.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: None CA: CSC	Primarily a cliff-dwelling species, roost generally under exfoliating rock slabs. Roosts are generally high above the ground, usually allowing a clear vertical drop of at least 3 meters below the entrance for flight. In California, it is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Its foraging habitat includes dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas.	No	Low. There is marginal habitat. This species could potentially roost in the tall trees and forage on-site.
<i>Microtus californicus stephensi</i> south coast marsh vole	Fed: None CA: CSC	Occurs in tidal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The site does not contain any tidal marshes.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: None CA: CSC	Roosts primarily in crevices of rugged cliffs, high rocky outcrops and slopes. It has been found in a variety of plant associations, including desert shrub and pine-oak forests. The species may also roost in buildings, caves, and under roof tiles.	No	Low. There is marginal habitat. This species could roost in some of the buildings on-site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: None CA: CSC	Found in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The site does not contain the basic habitat elements that this species requires.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: THR CA: CSC	Obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>). This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. It prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. This species is found in sage scrub.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: None CA: CSC	Primarily occupy grasslands, parklands, farms, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, meadows, shrub-steppe communities and other treeless areas with sandy loam soils where it can dig more easily for its prey. Occasionally found in open chaparral (with less than 50% plant cover) and riparian zones.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. There are no suitable burrows on-site and the extensive urbanization around the site combined with the site's high usage precludes this species from occurring.
Plant Species				
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i> coastal dunes milk-vetch	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in coastal bluff scrub and on coastal dunes in moist, sandy depressions along and near the Pacific Ocean. From 3 to 164 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.
<i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i> Lewis' evening-primrose	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 3	Occurs in sandy or clay soils within coastal bluff scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. From 0 to 984 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> southern tarplant	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Found along the margins of marshes and swamps or in valley and foothill grassland, usually in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. Often near the coast. From 0 to 1,575 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Usually found on alkaline soils in coastal salt marshes, playas, valley and foothills grassland, and vernal pools. From 3 to 4,593 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	Fed: THR CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, and playas, particularly in swales and vernal pools. It is often surrounded by other habitat types. From 98 to 2,182 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.
<i>Navarretia prostrate</i> prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Found in alkaline soils or mesic areas within coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. From 49 to 2,297 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools. From 49 to 2,165 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat on-site.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) -
Federal
END- Federal Endangered
THR- Federal Threatened

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(CDFW) - California
END- California Endangered
CSC- California Species of Concern

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
California Rare Plant Rank
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered
in California and Elsewhere
3 Plants About Which More Information is
Needed – A Review List

Threat Ranks
0.1- Seriously threatened in California

Appendix C Flora and Fauna Compendium

Flora Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree of heaven
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	white alder
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel
<i>Anemopsis californica</i>	yerba mansa
<i>Bougainvillea</i> sp.	bougainvillea
<i>Callistemon</i> sp.	bottlebrush
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	lamb's quarters
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	horseweed
<i>Cortaderia</i> sp.	pampas grass
<i>Erodium</i> sp.	filaree
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	eucalyptus
<i>Ficus carica</i>	common fig
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	mouse barley
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum
<i>Magnolia</i> sp.	magnolia
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	cheeseweed
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	pineapple weed
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	yellow sweet clover
<i>Morus alba</i>	white mulberry
<i>Pinus</i> sp.	pine tree
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	western sycamore
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	black locust
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian pepper
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper
<i>Sonchus</i> sp.	sowthistle
<i>Tipuana tipu</i>	tipu tree
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm

Fauna Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name
Birds	
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
<i>Anser anser</i>	graylag goose
<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	swan goose
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	cedar waxwing
<i>Cairina moschata</i>	Muscovy duck
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
<i>Columba livia</i>	rock pigeon
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	Townsend's warbler
<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's blackbird
<i>Fulica americana</i>	American coot
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	barn swallow
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Bullock's oriole
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	western gull
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	ash-throated flycatcher
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	ruddy duck
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow
<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	great-tailed grackle
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Allen's hummingbird
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared-dove
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European starling
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	warbling vireo
<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Wilson's warbler
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Mammals	
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	fox squirrel
<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	Botta's pocket gopher (burrows)
Reptiles	
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	red-eared slider

EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON RECREATION AREA AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN

Habitat Assessment

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May 2014

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EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON RECREATION AREA AND UJIMA VILLAGE MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY OF WILLOWBROOK, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Habitat Assessment

The undersigned certify that the statements furnished in this report and exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions to the best of our knowledge and beliefs.



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Biologist
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May 2014

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation intends to amend the State Master Plan for the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area to include an adjacent abandoned community called Ujima Village.

RBF Consulting prepared this habitat assessment in April 2014 to assess existing baseline conditions at the project site. The site is located in a recreational park surrounded by extensive urbanization. Based on the results of this habitat assessment, it was determined that the project site has a low potential to support two special-status bat species, the western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) and the pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*). All other special-status plant and wildlife species are presumed absent from the site and none were observed onsite during the habitat assessment. The project site contains no natural plant communities, and has been developed and landscaped with non-native, ornamental vegetation.

The project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat and there are no features within the project site that could be considered jurisdictional under the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

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APPENDIX

Appendix A	Site Photographs
Appendix B	Sensitive Habitats and Potentially Occurring Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species
Appendix C	Flora and Fauna Compendium

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CWA	Clean Water Act
F	Fahrenheit
GIS	Geographic Information System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
RBF	RBF Consulting
Regional Board	Regional Water Quality Control Board
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Section 1 Introduction

This report contains the findings of RBF Consulting's (RBF) habitat assessment for the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area and Ujima Village Master Plan (project site or project), located in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, Los Angeles County, California. The habitat assessment was conducted by RBF biologists Travis J. McGill and Ryan Winkleman on April 29, 2014 to evaluate the suitability of the habitat on the project site to support sensitive habitats and/or species identified by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) and other electronic databases as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is generally located south of Interstate 105 and east of Interstate 110 in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, Los Angeles County, California (Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The project site is located in Sections 8 and 9 of Township 3 South, Range 13 West of the Inglewood quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series (Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the project site is east of South Avalon Boulevard, south of 120th Street, west of South Central Avenue, and north of El Segundo Boulevard (Exhibit 3, *Project Site*).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Department of Parks and Recreation intends to develop an Amendment to the State Master Plan for the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area that reflects a future expanded area that includes the adjoining Ujima Village property. The existing Recreation Area is approximately 104-acres and is developed as a Community Regional facility with numerous amenities including two restrooms, picnic shelters, group picnic shelters, soccer fields, fitness par course, lakes, a 2-12 year old play area, picnic tables, barbecues, drinking fountains, security lighting, and on-site lighted parking. The addition of the Ujima Village property will expand the Recreation Area by roughly 16-acres.

Exhibit 1: Regional Vicinity

Exhibit 2: Site Vicinity

Exhibit 3: Project Site

Section 2 Methodology

A literature review and records search was conducted to determine which sensitive biological resources have the potential to occur on the project site or within the general vicinity. In addition, a general habitat assessment of the project site was conducted. The field survey provided information on the existing conditions of the site and the potential for sensitive biological resources to occur.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Prior to conducting the field visit, a thorough literature review and records search was conducted for sensitive biological resources potentially occurring on or within the vicinity of the project site. Previously recorded occurrences of special status plant and wildlife species and their proximity to the project site were determined through a query of the CNDDDB, the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *Electronic Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California*, Calflora Database, compendia of special-status species published by CDFW, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species listings.

Literature detailing biological resources previously observed near the project site and historical land uses were reviewed to understand the extent of disturbances to the habitats on-site. Standard field guides and texts on sensitive and non-sensitive biological resources were reviewed for habitat requirements, as well as the following resources:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey; and
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species.

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring on the project site. Additional recorded occurrences of these species found on or near the project site were derived from database queries. The CNDDDB ArcGIS database was used, together with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest occurrence and determine the distance from the project site.

2.2 HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

RBF biologists Travis J. McGill and Ryan Winkleman inventoried and evaluated the condition of the habitat on the project site on April 29, 2014. Plant communities identified by signature on aerial photographs during the literature review were ground-truthed by walking meandering transects through the plant communities and along boundaries between plant communities. The plant communities were evaluated for their potential to support sensitive plant and wildlife

species, and in addition the biologists paid attention to indicators of riparian/riverine habitat and corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

All plant and wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each plant community, were recorded. Detections of animal species were made by scat, trails, tracks, burrows, nests, and visual and aural observation. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, presence of indicator species, condition of the plant communities, hydrology, and evidence of human use of the site were noted. The plant communities were classified in accordance with CDFW (2003) and Holland (1986), delineated on an aerial photograph, and then digitized into GIS Arcview. The Arcview application was used to compute the area of each plant community in acres.

Section 3 Existing Conditions

3.1 LOCAL CLIMATE

The region has a mild, year-round Mediterranean Climate or semi-arid climate, with warm, sunny, dry summers and cool, rainy winters. Due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, temperatures in the Willowbrook area are moderate throughout the year, with average highs of 75° Fahrenheit (F) in August and September and average lows of 49°F in December and January. Willowbrook receives, on average, approximately 13 inches of rainfall each year, with February typically getting the most rainfall of any month and July getting the least. Weather conditions during the surveys included temperatures in the mid to high 60s°F and winds were minimal with a few light clouds overhead.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The project site is relatively flat with no significant areas of topographic relief. The project site ranges in elevation from 120 to 100 feet above sea level, gently sloping from southwest to northeast. According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey no data is available for on-site and adjoining soils. Due to the lack of available data from the Soil Survey, and the Custom Soil Resource Report, the potential of hydric soils to exist within the project site was not able to be determined.

3.3 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project site is located in an urban area that has been entirely developed, converting natural habitats into transportation, residential, commercial, religious, and educational land uses. Residential communities are present in all directions, with shopping centers located to the west, south, and east. Several churches are located to the west and southwest, and the Los Angeles Adventist Academy and Centennial High School are located to the south and southeast, respectively. There are no open spaces or undeveloped, natural areas immediately surrounding the project site or in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

Section 4 Discussion

4.1 SITE CONDITIONS

The project site is predominantly used as a recreational park in an urban setting. Within the park are two artificially created ponds joined by a small concrete lined drainage with walking paths surrounding both ponds that connect into adjacent parking lots. Each pond has a small island in it, inaccessible to humans but used by wildlife, particularly waterfowl. On the east side of the project site is an area that was formerly a residential community called Ujima Village. At the time of the habitat assessment the community had been demolished, with only the cement foundations and trees remaining. South of the community is a series of abandoned trailers that formerly belonged to Honey's Little Angels Learning daycare center, along with several soccer fields. While the daycare trailers are excluded from the project site, the adjacent soccer fields are included.

4.2 VEGETATION

Three communities were observed within the boundaries of the project site during the habitat assessment (Exhibit 4, *Vegetation*): landscaped, artificial pond, and developed. These communities are described in further detail below.

4.2.1 Landscaped

Most of the project site consists of landscaped areas dominated by landscaped grass and ornamental/planted vegetation. Ground cover primarily consists of landscaped grass, with some disturbed areas consisting of ruderal/weedy plant species such as cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), and stork's-bill (*Erodium* sp.) have established. A high number of trees has been planted throughout the site, with some of the more common species being eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), tipu tree (*Tipuana tipu*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Additionally, the island in the northern pond has a concentration of Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

4.2.2 Artificial Pond

Two artificially created ponds are located within the recreation area. These are connected by a small concrete lined drainage. There are small islands that are impassible to pedestrians in the middle of each pond that are used by waterfowl.

Exhibit 4: Vegetation Map

4.2.3 Developed

The developed portions of the project site consist of the cement paths (walking trails) throughout the recreation area, parking lots, paved roads (i.e. Wadsworth Avenue and East 126th Street), and Ujima Village.

4.3 WILDLIFE

Plant communities provide food sources, along with foraging, nesting and denning sites, cover, and protection from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a discussion of those wildlife species observed, expected, or not expected to occur on-site. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather condition in which the survey was conducted. Wildlife observations were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows and actual sightings of animals.

4.3.1 Amphibians

No amphibian species were visually observed during the habitat assessment. On-site aquatic habitat, namely the two ponds, is most conducive to the presence of American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeiana*). The extensive surrounding urbanization is not typically an indication of native amphibian presence, though it is possible, but unlikely, that Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) could potentially occur.

4.3.2 Reptiles

A group of red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) was observed on the bank of one of the islands during the habitat assessment, but no other reptiles were found. The project site has the potential to provide suitable habitat for reptilian species that are adapted to human environments and disturbance. Other common reptile species that are most likely to occur on the project site include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), and painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*).

4.3.3 Avian

The plant communities found on the project site provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a variety of avian species. The project site has the potential to provide suitable habitat for migrant and resident avian species. Because a large number of bird species were observed during the habitat assessment, only the most common species are noted here. A full list of observed species is in Appendix C. The most common bird species detected within and surrounding the project site during the habitat assessment include Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*),

Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and cedar waxwing (*Bombicilla cedrorum*).

4.3.4 Mammals

Fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) were observed during the habitat assessment in the trees throughout the project site. Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) is also expected to be on-site due to the detection of gopher holes. Due to the high level of disturbance through recreational use and surrounding urbanization the site is presumed not to support a large number of mammalian species. While not observed, California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) could also occur on-site.

4.4 NESTING BIRDS

On-site plant communities provide suitable foraging and cover habitat for year-round/seasonal avian residents, migrating songbirds, and raptors that occur in the area. Vegetation within and adjacent to the project site has the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for a number of avian species, in particular amongst the large number of trees on-site. The habitat assessment was conducted in mid-April, but only one occupied nest was observed, that of a Muscovy duck (*Cairina moschata*). Based on the amount of mallard ducklings and Canada geese goslings that were observed, it is likely that additional waterfowl nests are present on the islands within the two ponds.

4.5 MIGRATORY CORRIDORS AND LINKAGES

Habitat linkages provide links between larger undeveloped habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages, but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species but inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are significant features for dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

The project site is surrounded on all sides by urban development and does not provide a corridor between undisturbed areas. The two ponds within the park may provide valuable stopover resting habitat for migrating waterfowl and the numerous trees and lawn throughout the site may provide foraging habitat for migrating passerines (e.g. warblers and sparrows, respectively), but otherwise the site does not serve as a migratory corridor or linkage.

4.6 JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and bank under Fish and Wildlife Code Sections 1600 et seq., and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

During the habitat assessment, no drainage features or isolated wetland features were observed within the project site that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW. Two artificially created ponds are located within the recreation area. These are connected by a small concrete lined drainage. There are small islands that are impassible to pedestrians in the middle of each pond that are used by waterfowl. The ponds do not occur in a natural drainage course and have no upstream or downstream connectivity to jurisdictional waters. As such, the ponds are artificially created features that do not qualify as jurisdictional waters. Therefore the proposed project will not result in any impacts to Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW jurisdictional areas.

4.7 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The CNDDDB was queried for reported locations of listed and sensitive plant and wildlife species as well as sensitive natural plant communities within the Inglewood USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. A search of published records of these species was conducted within this quadrangle using the CNDDDB Rarefind 5 online software. The CNPS Electronic Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California supplied information regarding the distribution and habitats of vascular plants in the vicinity. The habitat assessment was used to assess the ability of the on-site plant communities to provide suitable habitat for relevant special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified seven sensitive plant species, eight sensitive wildlife species, and no sensitive habitats as having the potential to occur within the Inglewood quadrangle. Sensitive plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project boundaries based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Species determined to have the potential to occur within the general vicinity of the project site are presented in Appendix B, Sensitive Habitats and Potentially Occurring Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species. Appendix B summarizes conclusions from analysis and field surveys regarding the potential occurrence of listed and sensitive plant and

wildlife species within the project site. Additionally, the project site is not currently located within any federally designated Critical Habitat (Exhibit 5, *Critical Habitat*).

4.7.1 Sensitive Plants

Seven special-status plant species have been recorded in the Inglewood quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Based on habitat requirements for specific species, availability and quality of

Exhibit 5: Critical Habitat Map

habitats needed by each sensitive plant species, and habitat assessment results it was determined that the project site does not contain suitable habitat to support any of the sensitive plant species since the project site has been landscaped/developed and does not have any connection to undisturbed native habitats.

4.7.2 Sensitive Wildlife

Eight special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the Inglewood quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Based on habitat requirements for specific species, availability and quality of habitats needed by each sensitive wildlife species, and habitat assessment results, it was determined that the project site has a low potential to support western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) and pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*). All other special-status species are presumed absent due to lack of suitable habitat.

4.7.3 Sensitive Plant Communities

The CNDDDB does not show any sensitive vegetation communities occurring within the Inglewood quadrangle.

Section 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The project site consists of a mostly open-space urban park and a demolished apartment complex. The site is surrounded on all sides by urbanization, including residential, commercial, religious, and educational developments. The site is largely composed of landscaped areas, with two artificial ponds and several parking lots and overflow lots.

No sensitive plant or wildlife species were observed on the project site during the habitat assessment and it was determined that the plant communities onsite do not have the potential to provide suitable habitat for any of the sensitive plant and wildlife species known to occur in the general area. However, it was determined that the project site has low potential to support two sensitive bat species, western mastiff bat and pocketed free-tailed bat. Additionally, no sensitive plant communities occur on the project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status.

Vegetation within and adjacent to the project site has the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for avian species. Construction activities should be conducted outside of the avian breeding season to avoid impacts to nesting birds. However, if construction will occur during the avian breeding season, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey should be conducted to ensure no birds are nesting on or within 300 feet of the project site.

Due to the isolated nature of the project site and lack of native habitats, focused sensitive plant and wildlife surveys are not recommended for the proposed project. Additionally, the project site does not contain any features that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and CDFW Code

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 of the Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). In order to protect migratory bird species, nesting bird clearance surveys will be required prior to any vegetation removal or development that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season (generally from February 1 - August 31, but can vary annually based upon seasonal weather conditions). The pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted within 7 days prior to any ground disturbing activities. This clearance survey will ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. As long as development does not cause direct take of a bird or egg(s) or disrupt nesting behaviors, immediate protections would not be required. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur.

If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities might have to be rerouted, a no-work buffer might have to be established around the nest, or construction may be delayed until the young have fledged. The size of the buffer shall be determined by the biologist in consultation with CDFW, and shall be based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, and expected types of disturbance. Typically these buffers range from 250 to 500 feet from the nest location.

It is recommended that a biological monitor be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area if an active nest is detected and to monitor the nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the qualified biologist has determined that young birds have successfully fledged, a monitoring report shall be prepared and submitted for review and approval prior to initiating construction activities within the buffer area. The monitoring report shall summarize the results of the nest monitoring, describe construction restrictions currently in place, and confirm that construction activities can proceed within the buffer area without jeopardizing the survival of the young birds. Construction within the designated buffer area shall not proceed until the written authorization is received by the applicant from CDFW. Consequently, if avian nesting behaviors are disrupted, such as nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort as a result of project construction, it would be considered “take” and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

Section 6 References

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Appendix A Site Photographs

Appendix B Sensitive Habitats and Potentially
Occurring Sensitive Plant and
Wildlife Species

Appendix C Flora and Fauna Compendium
